

REMARKS

Applicants hereby propose to amend claims 61, 62, 70, 77-81, 94, 115, 116, and 132 for the following reasons:

- (i) to adopt suggestions that the Examiner made in telephone communications on November 14, November 16, and November 28, 2006, to clarify certain aspects related to the claimed invention; and
- (ii) to correct informalities, such as claim dependency.

Claims 61, 62, 64-113, 115, 116, and 119-146 are pending in the above-captioned patent application, of which claims 61, 101-108, 115, and 139-146 are presented for examination, and claims 62, 64-100, 109-113, 116, 118, and 120-138 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The examined claims, as pending before this Supplemental Reply, are believed to be allowable over the references cited in the rejections contained in the Office Action dated May 23, 2006. Nevertheless, claims 61, 62, 70, 77-81, 94, 115, 116, and 132 are hereby proposed to be amended for the reasons explained above.

CONCLUSION

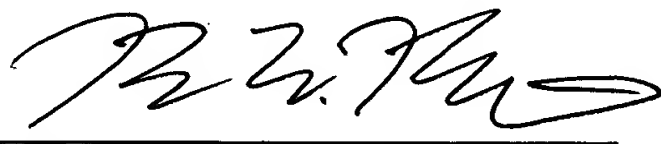
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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